

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-5 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed May 17, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended responsive to this rejection. If any additional amendment is necessary to overcome this rejection, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,624,673 to Kim ("Kim"). The Examiner noted that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the § 112 rejection and in independent form. It is noted that claims 1-3 have been amended. To the extent that the rejection remains applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejection.

The Applicants' invention as now set forth in claim 1 is directed to a semiconductor device including, in part, a reference voltage generation circuit including a reference voltage generation section for generating the reference voltage; a first switching circuit connected to the voltage generation section and a second switching circuit connected to the reference voltage generation section and the start signal generation circuit for starting the reference voltage generation circuit in response to the start signal.

Kim teaches a low voltage detector. However, the Applicants submit that even if the low voltage detector of Kim is regarded as a reference voltage section, it is not connected to a second switch circuit that is also connected to the start signal for starting the reference voltage generation circuit in response to the start signal, as claimed in claim 1. Therefore, the Applicants submit that Kim does not teach a reference voltage section according to claim 1.

The Examiner describes the delay of Kim, 14, as being a reference voltage generation circuit and circuit 16 as being broadly interpreted as a starting circuit. However, in Kim, the circuit 16, which the Examiner interprets as the starting circuit, is turned on and off according to the output signal of the delay, 14. In contrast, the reference voltage generation section, as claimed in amended claim 1, is connected to a second switching circuit which is also connected to the start signal generation circuit for starting the reference voltage generation circuit in response to the start signal.

In addition, the delay, 14, taught by Kim delays an output signal of the flip-flop, 12, and sends a delayed signal to an NMOS transistor. Thus, the delay of Kim cannot include a switching element.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the cited art. As claim 1 is allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 2-5, which depend from allowable claim 1, are also allowable for at least the above noted reasons and for the additional limitations that they provide.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below. In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, with reference to Attorney Docket No. **108075-00122**.

Respectfully submitted,

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